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ABSTRACT

This book presents the findings of a study of the demography of high school dropouts using a special analysis model applied to 1980 census results and other published data. The study sought to place findings in the context of the trends in national educational attainment in the second half of the 20th century. Data were categorized and analyzed in terms of the following parameters: (1) each racial/ethnic group separately; (2) language minority youth; (3) non-Hispanic American White minority youth separately from White majority youth; and (4) youth from families with incomes above and below the poverty level. The paper is divided into nine chapters. Chapter 1 summarizes the findings and presents the principal policy implication of the study. Chapter 2 presents the numbers and characteristics of under-educationed youth in 1980, while chapter 3 discusses under-education risk. The final chapters describe the racial/ethnic groups and individually address the numbers and characteristics of the following groups: (1) under-educationed White majority youth; (2) African American youth; (3) Hispanic American youth; (4) non-Hispanic American White minority youth; (5) American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut youth; and (6) Asian and Pacific Islander youth. Included are 21 figures; 87 tables; appendices on the sources and accuracy of the data, definitions, and questions from the census form; and a 49-item bibliography. (JB)

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